

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 15, 1911, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. HOTEL CHELSEA Atlantic City, N. J. June 15, 1911. My darling Alec:

This is Thursday and I haven't had a word from you. I am getting worried. Of course you aren't drowned or the papers would have told me, but I want to know more than the mere fact of your being alive.

Elsie is getting along well and her appetite is getting difficult to satisfy. She eats good three meals a day and between them has three or four raw eggs, soup, jellies and sandwiches. At this rate she ought to make good red blood in a hurry. I am beginning to wonder who really needs me most next, you or Daisy. I feel troubled about that poor child and her husband, he seems to be getting discouraged. They can't make both ends meet, all the money we gave them went to paying for the house and doctors' bills and David feels the office requiring more and more of him as executive taking his strength so that he cannot do scientific work. It is all very well for you to tell him to cut loose, but he can't afford to give up his salary on an uncertainty, and his heart is in his work. He thinks Pinchot made a great mistake in leaving his work and that he is not doing as much as President of the Conservation as he was as Chief Forester. If he is to be made to leave the service we will have to come forward and help him at least for some years.

What arrangements are you making with Mabel McCurdy. Both Bert and Elsie feel very strongly that she was insolent to them last 2 summer. They neither of them said anything and would not have done so if I had not asked them in consequence of what had come to me from others. I also know that Douglas does not trust her, and thinks she repeats things in the village. So that altogether I don't want you to commit yourself to her. Bert says \$40.00 is a good salary for a competent typewriter in Washington, so that I don't think you

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should pay her more. But since you promised her increased pay I think \$45. is sufficient. And I don't want her at the point you promised me she shouldn't come. Oh dear I love you and will do anything you wish and you can do anything you wish, but I hate to feel surrounded by people who just want your money.

Your loving wife.